

3 P'ing Ts'ang Hsiang,  
Nanking,  
4 December, 1937.

W. H. Donald, Esq.,  
Nanking.  
Dear Mr. Donald:-

With utmost brevity we send you the Proposal for a Safety Zone, fully accepted on the Chinese side and with qualifications on the Japanese, and four telegrams as follows:

- I. Proposal. (English and Chinese).
- II. Our wire to Shanghai friends.
- III. Reply from Japanese through Father Jacquinet. (English and Chinese).
- IV. Our return wire and public statement.
- V. Official wire from Tokyo, copied in this letter.

All these items except the strictly confidential(V) have been released to pressmen at the proper time, since by that means of pressure the Nantao Zone was finally secured.

We are working vigorously in the Zone, and will do the best we can despite some laxness of Chinese authorities in continuing military work within the area, and despite the qualified nature of the Japanese response thus far. But we realize that the safety guaranteed to civilians and their homes on this basis is partial and inadequate, and have hoped that the whole city might have relief.

Now comes by strange accident and <sup>coincidence</sup> confidence an official wire from Tokyo, the source and destination of which we will tell you by phone if you desire. Date of despatch was one day before Jacquinet's information in Shanghai. Text as follows:

(Translation) "JAPANESE INTEND IF POSSIBLE TO SAVE THE CITY, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (?), LIFE AND PROPERTY OF FOREIGNERS AND PEACEFUL CHINESE POPULATION OF NANKING. JAPAN HOPES THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, PERSUADED BY FOREIGN POWERS, WILL SPARE THE CAPITAL FROM BEING A BATTLEGROUND. A SPECIAL SAFETY ZONE IN NANKING OR WITHIN THE BOUNDARY OF ITS FORTIFIED DISTRICT CANNOT, FOR MILITARY REASONS, BE GRANTED. JAPAN WILL ISSUE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT."

(Note:) Term translated as "National Government" is not clear in original language and text.

In the light of the above, we now make the following proposal for the welfare of this Chinese city, developed with considerable information and conviction that it does not injure Chinese efforts to combat the Japanese on ground more favorable for military operations than the city proper:

If you feel that such a step is possible, the International Committee will, on humanitarian grounds, present the suggestion to the Chinese authorities that the Walled City not be defended, and to the Japanese that it be spared any form of military attack. Acceptance by either side to be conditional upon acceptance by the other.



W. H. Donald -- 2.

You will realize the importance of these possibilities, and that difficulties of communication with Shanghai, Hankow, and Tokyo are such as to require immediate effort if anything is to be done.

With friendly concern,

P. S. You can get in touch with us at once by Tel. 31789. Text of No. V is at the moment strictly confidential. It is not known to the Committee as a whole.